

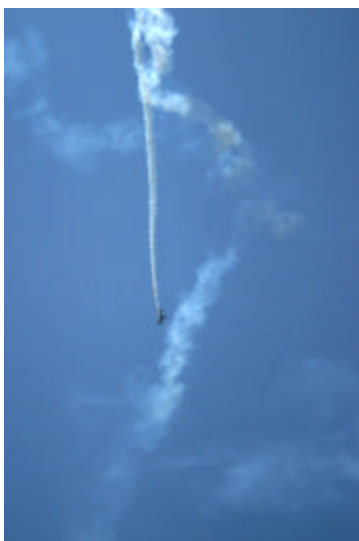
Wings, Air Fair Hits With Crowds

Wings Over Gillespie and the Ramona Air Fair once more drew thousands of spectators to County Airports this Spring.

Those folks got close up looks at World War II aircraft, home-builts, acrobatic and fire fighting aircraft and more.

"It's great to have people visit our facilities and see what goes on at each," said Acting Airports Director Sherry Miller. "Knowing that our airports are home to law enforcement, emergency medical service and fire fighting plans and helicopters helps the public better understand the importance of our airports."

More photos on Pages 4 & 5



Aircraft displays at Wings Over Gillespie.

Don Nash flight demonstration at Ramona Air Fair.



Swain Towers Over Gillespie

From his office windows just below the cab of Gillespie Field's air traffic control tower, Jim Swain can see the airport's runways and taxiways. The white-walled room reflects the experience of the man who fills the chair at the L-shaped desk.



Jim Swain

Swain manages the tower and its 12 other employees.

"They're a good crew," he says. "Some have been here for years, some left and returned, some are relatively new to the system. But they work hard. My job is to provide good working conditions for them."

With his 36 years in air traffic control, Swain should know. He's worked his way up. He started in July 1967 as an Air Force air controller, then moved into a civilian slot with the Navy. After that he did stints at Burbank approach control, as a tower supervisor at Santa Barbara and as Manager of Camarillo's tower.

"Controlling aircraft is intense," he says. "But I like the work and I like this job."

In the future Swain hopes to improve both the facility and the equipment at Gillespie. But he recognizes the upgrades may take some time. For now, he'd like to remain in the San Diego area.

Gillespie Tower Gets None In A Million

One millions is a huge number and it took staff at Gillespie Field's air traffic control tower six years to get it. That's a big deal.

Tower controllers surpassed one million operations without any operational errors. That, according to tower Manager Jim Swain, is quite an accomplishment.

"It means that for six years the crew here kept standard separation between aircraft," Swain said. "There are only a few of these awards given out by the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration)."

"Separation" varies based on aircraft type and whether they're in the air or on the ground. For example, on the runway small aircraft must be 3,000 feet apart and medium-sized need 4,500 feet between them.

Attending award ceremonies in June were former tower Manager Kevin Karpe, Hub Manager James Buckles, Regional Air Traffic Manager John Clancy, Swain and Gillespie Field Manager Noreen Crane.

Duck Pond Gets New Life

What was once a mucky hole in the ground is now a refuge of sorts for critters. The "Duck Pond" on Airport land near Gillespie Field teems with turtles, water fowl, chickens and other passing wildlife.



Built for a golf course that once occupied the site, the pond became a dumping ground for thoughtless passersby. Airport maintenance staff spent hours cleaning, clearing and picking up trash from the site. The crew recently replaced the water pump and improved the well that feeds the pond.

Today it's a great spot to pass time watching ducks swimming, chickens pecking and turtles snapping.

Water shoots into duck pond near Gillespie Field.

Fire Season A Time For Reporting

As sure as April showers bring May flowers, Summer weather brings wild fires to San Diego County. Every year thousands of acres burn, destroying homes and habitat. Early detection reduces the risk of fires spreading uncontrolled.

That's something pilots and passengers can do something about. If you spot a fire while you're flying, get as good a position as you can and notify air traffic control. You may be the first to report the danger and consequently save homes, property and even lives.

Common sense tells you to fly around fire areas and avoid heavy smoke down wind of a fire. Never fly into a fire area where dangerous winds develop unexpectedly.

Summer Weather, Noise & You

Summer weather is here and that means more flying time. But warm, sunny weather means airport neighbors spend more time outdoors.

Noise complaints rise during the Summer because more people are outside or leave their windows open. Engine rumbles you may enjoy as you take off can irritate noise a family barbecuing in the back yard.

Every airport has its own noise abatement procedures. This is a good time to review the recommended procedures and requirements at your favorite fields. Procedures for the San Diego County airports are available from airport managers or on the Internet at:

www.sdcounty.ca.gov/airports/noise.htm.

Enjoy the great flying weather and please be safe and considerate.

Volunteer Donovan Helps Ramona

Look at Bo Donovan's resume and you'll see an impressive show business career. Look at his face and you'll see a twinkle in his eye as he talks about his latest gig—Ramona Airport volunteer.

Donovan still owns Silvertree, a creative services company where he works on radio, television and corporate video productions. But visits with his grandson, who lives in Ramona and loves airplanes, connected Donovan with airport Manager Richard Selinger.

"My grandson and I have been to every airplane museum, every airport in the County," he said. "We take a picnic lunch, and because he lives in Ramona, we come here a lot. That's how I got to know Richard."

That connection led Donovan to volunteer 12 to 15 hours a week helping Selinger with paper work, planning and project coordination. But it's a long way from a recording studio in Kearny Mesa to tarmac in the foothills.

"This is so totally different from my (creative services) business," he said. "Maybe it's that it's so different it's a break."

That break comes after 40 years as a radio disc jockey, programmer, manager and producer during a career that led from El Centro to San Diego via Los Angeles, Seattle and Sacramento.



Bo Donovan

Sights At Wings Over Gillespie



They came by the thousands, old and young, to see the airplanes at Wings Over Gillespie at Gillespie Field. They got what they came for: World War II aircraft, helicopters, bi-planes. There was food and there were souvenirs. There were smiles and shrieks of joy. Even a few hours of rain couldn't dampen visitors' spirits.

Ramona Air Fair



Stunt pilot Don Nash drove his plane straight and high into the sky, then dove straight toward the ground. Firefighting pilots rumbled above, dropping their loads in demonstration of their flame retarding prowess. Balloons soared, war birds roared during the 2003 Ramona Air Fair.

Tail Section

*Taxiway Alpha at Palomar Airport is nearing the end of construction. Manager **Floyd Best** says cooperation with businesses, pilots and other airport users has been fantastic and those efforts helped the project move smoothly...Thanks to the efforts of the Department of Public Works **Construction crew**, Fallbrook's taxiway is better off. On site manager Willie Vasquez says the crew helped with important grading...**Jeremy Keating** joins Airports' staff as Operations coordinator for Gillespie, Jacumba, Ocotillo and Agua Caliente...Coming to **Gillespie Field**: major improvements to runways 27L and 27R...*